

## Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 LONDON 15865 221750Z  
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W  
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R 221741Z SEP 77  
FM AMEMBASSY LONDON  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8586

S E C R E T LONDON 15865

EXDIS

E. O. 11652: XGDS-L  
TAGS: UK US XF  
SUBJECT: FCO INTEREST IN US PLANNING FOR ARAB-ISRAELI  
SETTLEMENT

REF: LONDON 15754

1. TOMKYS, HEAD OF FCO NEAR EAST DEPARTMENT, INVITED  
EMBOFF TO CALL FOR REVIEW OF RECENT US-UK EXCHANGES  
ON POSSIBLE OUTLINES OF AN ARAB-ISRAELI SETTLEMENT  
SEPTEMBER 22. TOMKYS EXPRESSED PARTICULAR APPRECIATION  
FOR ENLIGHTENING BRIEFING GIVEN IN DEPARTMENT SEPTEMBER  
8 TO SQUIRES AND MUIR OF BRITISH EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON.

-  
ANTICIPATING QUESTIONS FROM FOREIGN SECRETARY OWEN,  
TOMKYS SAID FCO WISHES TO BE ABLE TO "PUT FLESH ON  
THE BONES OF A POTENTIAL SETTLEMENT," AND HAS A  
NUMBER OF QUESTIONS TO PUT TO US ON OUR PLANNING AND  
THINKING, WHICH THE FCO UNDERSTANDS IS DEVELOPING IN  
CONSIDERABLE DETAIL. QUESTIONS HE POSED AS EXAMPLES  
ARE: WHAT POPULATION MOVEMENTS ARE ENVISAGED; WHAT  
WOULD BE THE STATUS OF GAZA; AND WHAT SORT OF POLICE  
FORCE AND UN PRESENCE FOR A DEMILITARIZED WEST BANK  
ARE CONTEMPLATED.

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 LONDON 15865 221750Z

2. TOMKYS CONTINUED THAT HE ASSUMED WE COULD NOT GET  
A SETTLEMENT UNLESS THE PALESTINIANS ARE GIVEN THE  
RIGHT TO RETURN TO THE WEST BANK, IN WHICH CASE THE  
MAJORITY OF THE PALESTINIANS NOW IN LEBANON WOULD OPT  
TO DO SO. TOMKYS SAID ANOTHER QUESTION CONCERNS THE  
QUALITY OF THE PEACE, WHICH HE ASSUMED WOULD BE DIFFER-

ENT IN THE CASE OF EACH OF ISRAEL'S NEIGHBORS. IN THE CASE OF EGYPT, HE SAID, THERE WOULD NOT NEED TO BE A GREAT LEVEL OF DIPLOMATIC EXCHANGES; HOWEVER, IN THE CASE OF JORDAN HE COULD NOT ENVISAGE A SETTLEMENT IF TRADE BARRIERS WERE TO BE ESTABLISHED WHERE NONE PRESENTLY EXIST. HE SUGGESTED THAT THERE WOULD HAVE TO BE A FORM OF CUSTOMS UNION.

3. FINALLY, TOMKYS SAID, THE FCO WONDERS WHAT SORT OF END RESULT THE US IS SEEKING, AND HOPES TO FIND OUT FROM THE US ON WHAT ASSUMPTIONS IT IS STRIVING TO ATTAIN PEACE. IF THE FCO CANNOT COME UP WITH ANSWERS TO THESE SPECIFIC QUESTIONS, HE SAID, OWEN WILL DEMAND OF HIS SUBORDINATES, "WHAT ARE YOU THINKING ABOUT IN PRACTICAL TERMS."

4. THE CONVERSATION THEN TURNED BRIEFLY TO THE ISRAELI-LEBANESE SITUATION. IT WAS NOTED THAT THAT MORNING THE LONDON TIMES, GUARDIAN, AND FINANCIAL TIMES HAD ALL REPORTED ON THE ISRAELI INCURSION. TOMKYS STATED THAT THIS SITUATION MIGHT PRODUCE POLITICAL PRESSURE FOR AN FCO STATEMENT CRITICIZING THE ISRAELI MOVE.

5. EMBOFF HAS CONFINED HIMSELF TO GIVING FCO STATEMENTS BY DEPARTMENT PRESS SPOKESMAN AND WIRELESS  
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 LONDON 15865 221750Z

FILE ITEMS AS SOON AS RECEIVED. FOLLOWING THIS DISCUSSION, EMBOFF CALLED ON FCO ASSISTANT UNDER SECRETARY WEIR AND SUGGESTED THAT THE LATTER SEEK AN UPDATE BRIEFING NEXT WEEK FROM NEA ASSISTANT SECRETARY ATHERTON (SEPTTEL).

BREWSTER

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NNN

## Message Attributes

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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
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